Software Announcements

New Software

Auto-Barona: An Automated Method of Calculating Premorbid IQ Based on Actuarial Information

It is often useful to have some indication of premorbid IQ for clinical and research purposes. Such information, however, is typically either unavailable or does not exist. Several approaches for estimating premorbid IQ have been proposed (see Grober & Sliwinski, 1991, and Spreen & Strauss, 1991, for discussions). Barona, Reynolds, and Chastain (1984) present regression equations which estimate WAIS-R verbal, performance, and full-scale IQ using the following demographic variables: age, sex, race, education, occupation, urban/rural residence, and region of the country. While straightforward, this method can involve considerable clerical labor and further introduces the possibility of error, particularly for datasets of more than modest size. We present two programs for computing the Barona index that both simplify the task and significantly reduce the possibility of errors.

The first is a user-friendly program written in the Paradox application language (PAL) that will run as a script on Paradox 4.0 or higher (Borland International, Scotts Valley, CA). It is useful in clinical settings in which a small number of cases are being considered and when premorbid IQ is needed as part of a routine patient profile. The user enters values into provided spaces on the screen. The F2 key invokes the calculations and the results appear on a separate screen. All instructions and available functions are listed on the appropriate screen.

The second is in SPSS programming language and will run on SPSS/PC+ 4.0 or higher (SPSS Inc., Chicago). It is more appropriate in settings in which large numbers of subjects are under consideration. The necessary demographic variables are entered into the program, either as part of a database or when there are moderate numbers of subjects, directly into SPSS in those versions which support direct data entry (e.g., the scratchsheet in SPSS/PC+). It may be necessary to modify the variable names used by Auto-Barona so that they match the variable names in the database. The numeric variables of both sex and education are automatically recoded into the values used in the regression equation. Results can be listed using any arbitrary identification code (last name, ID number). Both versions require MS-DOS 3.3 or higher.

Availability. A copy of both programs and an ASCII instruction file can be obtained without charge by sending a 5.25- or 3.5-in. formatted diskette, together with a self-addressed stamped mailer to David Dorfman, De-

partment of Psychiatry, Box 1230, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY 10029-6574.

REFERENCES

- BARONA, A., REYNOLDS, C. R., & CHASTAIN, R. (1984). A demographically based index of premorbid intelligence for the WAIS-R. *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology*, 4, 171-174.
GROBER, E., & SLIWINSKI, M. (1991). Development and validation of a model for estimating premorbid verbal intelligence in the elderly. *Journal of Clinical & Experimental Neuropsychology*, 13, 933-949.
SPREEN, O., & STRAUSS, E. (1991). *A compendium of neuropsychological tests* (pp. 17-21). New York: Oxford University Press.

David Dorfman, John F. Kincaid, and James Wakeman
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

(Manuscript received July 5, 1994;
revision accepted for publication August 26, 1994.)

Spider Phobia Control (SpiderPC)

Spider Phobia Control (SpiderPC) demonstrates the behavioral treatment of specific phobias using as an example the case of arachnophobia. The most successful therapy for the simple phobias is exposure, whereby the phobia sufferer is placed in the presence of whatever it is that causes the fear. The sufferer then tolerates the anxiety that is provoked, and, with time, the fear reaction becomes extinguished. This is generally done using a hierarchy of increasingly difficult stimuli.

SpiderPC begins with a harmless-looking cartoon spider. Although initially this may provoke some discomfort, after a while the spider-phobic subject will find that it provokes no unpleasant feeling and can now move on to the next step. The picture on the screen can be made more challenging in one of three ways, by changing its size, its movement, or the type of spider presented. All changes are made by the person who has his or her hands on the keyboard. There are no time limits. The program may be stopped at any time and returned to later. If at any time the subject finds her or his anxiety intolerable, the program can be instantly returned to the start by pressing the "Esc" key (the "panic button"). SpiderPC replaces all the usual paraphernalia of graded exposure, drawings, photographs, videos, and so on, with one convenient and reusable program.

Using the Program

SpiderPC runs on an IBM-PC 386 or compatible. It is DOS based and requires a Microsoft-compatible mouse.